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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Creator God, alert our senses to Your world. Let sight and sound, taste and touch remind us that You are sovereign and in control of the unfolding events of our planet.

Give our lawmakers the desire to do Your will. Equip them with deeper insight and loftier courage, enabling them to act not only for today but for the coming hour of Your Kingdom. Keep their idealism and dreams of a better world from being crushed by disappointment, doubts, and despair. Show them the way of servanthood, which sanctifies every task done for Your glory. We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2011.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND, a Senator from the State of New York, to perform the duties of the Chair.

DANIEL K. INOUE,
President pro tempore.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Madam President, following any leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to a period of morning business until 10:30 a.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the majority controlling the first half and the Republicans controlling the second half.

Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 493, the Small Business jobs bill.

Senators should expect two rollcall votes at about 10:30 this morning. Those votes will be in relation to the following amendments: Nelson of Nebraska, regarding a sense-of-the-Senate resolution to reduce the Senate's budget by 5 percent, and a Snowe-Landrieu-Coburn amendment striking the Federal authorization of the National Veterans Business Development Program.

Additional rollcall votes in relation to amendments to the Small Business bill are expected during today's session of the Senate.

At 12 noon, Senator BLUMENTHAL, from Connecticut, will deliver his maiden speech and will speak for up to 20 minutes.

Yesterday, we received a 3-week continuing resolution from the House. I hope we will be able to reach an agreement to consider that before the end of the week.

MEASURE PLACED ON CALENDAR—H.J. RES. 48

Mr. REID. Madam President, I am told that H.J. Res. 48 is at the desk and due for its second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 48) making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2011, and for other purposes.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I object to any further proceedings with respect to the joint resolution.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the joint resolution will be placed on the calendar.

LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION

Mr. REID. Madam President, no one can count the number of times this Chamber has heard calls for compromise. That call has come from Senators of good faith, from Senators on both sides. Indeed, it is the very essence of the legislative branch, which was purposefully designed to run on consensus by our Founding Fathers.

As Senators we search for the right arguments, and the right incentives that will help us strike the right balance—a balance that will let the Senate and the country move forward. But there has been no stronger argument for bipartisanship than the series of budget votes over the past few days.

Last week, the Senate voted on two proposals—one written by Republicans and one written by Democrats. Some Republicans voted against the Republican bill and some Democrats voted against the Democratic bill. In the end, neither passed.

Yesterday, the House voted on another Republican proposal. Again, some Republicans voted against their own party's plan—a lot of them did—and some Democrats voted for the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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